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Department of State

R INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SPH-01 HA-05 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6999
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 1122

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM ES
SUBJ: TEXT OF ARCHBISHOP'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1102

FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF ARCHBISHOP ROMERO'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER AS IT APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS.

QUOTE: IN THE LAST FEW DAYS NEWS HAS APPEARED IN THE NATIONAL PRESS THAT WORRIES ME GREATLY: ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS YOUR GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO THE PRESENT JUNTA GOVERNMENT.

BECAUSE YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN AND BECAUSE YOU HAVE SHOWN THAT YOU WANT TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS I VENTURE TO SET FORTH FOR YOU MY PASTORAL POINT OF VIEW CONCERNING THIS NEWS AND TO MAKE A REQUEST.

I AM VERY WORRIED BY THE NEWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS STUDYING A FORM OF ABETTING THE ARMING OF EL SALVADOR BY SENDING MILITARY TEAMS AND ADVISORS TO "TRAIN THREE SALVADORAN BATALLIONS IN LOGISTICS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND INTELLIGENCE." IF THIS INFORMATION FROM THE NEWSPAPERS IS CORRECT, THE CONTRIBUTION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT INSTEAD OF PROMOTING GREATER JUSTICE AND PEACE IN EL SALVADOR WILL WITHOUT DOUBT SHARPEN THE INJUSTICE AND REPRESSION AGAINST THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE PEOPLE WHICH REPEATEDLY HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING TO GAIN RESPECT FOR THEIR MOST FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE PRESENT JUNTA GOVERNMENT AND ABOVE ALL THE ARMED FORCES AND SECURITY FORCES UNFORTUNATELY HAVE NOT DEMONSTRATED THEIR CAPACITY TO RESOLVE, IN POLITICAL AND STRUCTURAL PRACTICE, THE GRAVE NATIONAL PROBLEMS. IN GENERAL THEY HAVE ONLY REVERTED TO REPRESSIVE VIOLENCE PRODUCING A TOTAL OF DEATHS AND INJURIES MUCH GREATER THAN IN THE RECENT MILITARY REGIMES WHOSE SYSTEMATIC VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WAS DENOUNCED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE BRUTAL FORM IN WHICH THE SECURITY FORCES RECENTLY ATTACKED AND ASSASSINATED THE OCCUPIERS OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN SPITE OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE THE LACK OF AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS OPERATION FROM THE JUNTA GOVERNMENT AND TE PARTY IS AN INDICATION THAT THE JUNTA AND THE PARTY DO NOT GOVERN THE COUNTRY, BUT THAT POLITICAL POWER IS IN THE HANDS OF THE UNSCRUPULOUS MILITARY WHO ONLY KNOW HOW TO REPRESS THE PEOPLE AND PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THE SALVADORAN OLIGARCHY.

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IT IS IS TRUE THAT LAST NOVEMBER "A GROUP OF SIX AMERICANS WERE IN EL SALVADOR...PROVIDING $200,000 IN GAS MASKS AND FLAK JACKETS AND INSTRUCTING ABOUT THEIR USE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS", YOU YOURSELF SHOULD BE INFORMED THAT IT IS EVIDENT THAT SINCE THEN THE SECURITY FORCES WITH BETTER PERSONAL PROTECTION AND EFFICIENCY HAVE REPRESSED THE PEOPLE EVEN MORE VIOLENTLY USING LETHAL WEAPONS.

FOR THIS REASON AS WELL AS MY OBLIGATION AS A SALVADORAN AND AS ARCHBISHOP OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN SALVADOR TO SEE THAT FAITH AND JUSTICE REIGN IN MY COUNTRY, I ASK YOU, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS,

- TO PROHIBIT THE GIVING OF THIS MILITARY AID TO THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT, AND

- TO GUARANTEE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL NOT INTERVENE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WITH MILITARY, ECONOMIC, DIPLOMATIC, OR OTHER PRESSURES TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE.

IN THESE MOMENTS WE ARE LIVING THROUGH A GRAVE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISIS IN OUR COUNTRY, BUT IT IS CERTAIN THAT IT IS INCREASINGLY THE PEOPLE WHO ARE AWAKENING AND ORGANIZING AND HAVE BEGUN TO PREPARE THEMSELVES TO MANAGE AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FUTURE OF EL SALVADOR; ONLY THEY ARE CAPABLE OF OVERCOMING THE CRISIS.

IT WOULD BE UNJUST AND DEPLORABLE IF THE INTRUSION OF FOREIGN POWERS WERE TO FRUSTRATE THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE, WERE TO REPRESS IT AND BLOCK ITS AUTONOMOUS DECISIONS ABOUT THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PATH THAT OUR COUNTRY OUGHT TO FOLLOW.

IT WOULD VIOLATE THE RIGHT PUBLICLY RECOGNIZED BY THE LATIN AMERICAN BISHOPS MEETING IN PUEBLA:

"THE LEGITIMATE SELF-DETERMINATION OF OUR PEOPLE THAT PERMITS THEM TO ORGANIZE ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN GENIUS AND THE MARCH OF THEIR HISTORY AND TO COOPERATE IN A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER".

I HOPE THAT YOUR RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS AND YOUR FEELINGS FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS WILL MOVE YOU TO ACCEPT MY PETITION, AVOIDING BY THIS ACTION MORE BLOODSHED IN THIS SUFFERING COUNTRY. UNQUOTE.

CHEEK

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 8 JUL 1982
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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